



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20240



<http://www.blm.gov>

February 15, 2006

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Information Bulletin No. 2006-075

To: All Washington and Field Officials

From: Assistant Director, Minerals, Realty and Resource Protection

Subject: Announcement of a New Web Address and New Features for Geocommunicator for Internal BLM Users

Program Area: Lands, Minerals, and Resources

Purpose: The purpose of this Information Bulletin (IB) is to inform Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Centers, State, and Field Offices about a new web address for GeoCommunicator at web.geocommunicator.gov for Internal BLM users. GeoCommunicator is the publication website for the BLM's National Integrated Land System (NILS). Data that is available through GeoCommunicator is processed and maintained in the NILS transaction applications: Survey Management (SM), Measurement Management (MM), and Parcel Management (PM) and published to GeoCommunicator for distribution. The public internet GeoCommunicator website at www.geocommunicator.gov was reconnected in November 2005.

With GeoCommunicator, users can interact and create maps showing BLM authorizations such as oil and gas, coal, and geothermal leases, as well as mining claims, abandoned mines, campgrounds, and recreation sites. A variety of reference maps can be added including USGS topographic maps, imagery, roads, and streams. To find more information on a parcel, just click on the map and get detailed information on the case including links to LR2000 reports.

A popular feature in GeoCommunicator is the ability to download the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) data for any of the western states. Additional features for users with GIS software includes the ability to stream PLSS data and federal surface management agency boundaries live from GeoCommunicator directly to their desktop and combine it with their local datasets. There is no need to store the data locally and the data is always current.

The GeoCommunicator Intranet website offers additional features not found on www.geocommunicator.gov including a process for reviewing NILS' data. GeoCommunicator

provides a powerful mapping environment to integrate BLM actions with land information to provide the public with easy access to BLM information and to help us better manage our lands. The public response has been overwhelming and we encourage you to pass the word out to your customers. The Land & Resources Project Office will be having live webcasts this spring to demonstrate the capabilities of GeoCommunicator. Check the GeoCommunicator website for dates and times.

Background: NILS is a joint development project between the BLM and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) conducted in partnership with states, counties, and private industry to provide a comprehensive solution to integrate survey data with parcel-based land records in an enterprise GIS. NILS consists of two environments: 1) a transactional side, in which cadastral data and land records data are captured, analyzed, edited, maintained, and committed to permanent records, and 2) a publication side, GeoCommunicator, for distribution and interactive mapping.

NILS provides mapping for other BLM alphanumeric applications such as Facilities Asset Management System (FAMS), the Rangeland Administration System (RAS), the Protection and Response Information System (PRIS) and the Automated Fluid Minerals Support System (AFMSS).

For more information about the GeoCommunicator websites, please read the handouts provided.

Policy: No policy implications.

Timeframe: Both websites are currently available.

Budget Impact: None

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: None.

Contact: For information on GeoCommunicator contact Leslie Cone at (303) 236-0815 or by e-mail at lccone@blm.gov. Consult BLM L&RPO's website at: <http://web.blm.gov/lrpo> or the NILS website at: <http://www.blm.gov/nils> for information about other L&RPO projects and NILS.

Signed by:
Bob Anderson
Acting, Assistant Director
Minerals, Realty and Resource Protection

Authenticated by:
Robert M. Williams
Policy and Records Group, WO-560

2 Attachments

- 1 – web.geocommunicator.gov Handout (2 pp)
- 2 – www.geocommunicator.gov Handout (2 pp)



www.geocommunicator.gov

WWW.geocommunicator.gov is a website for the distribution of spatial data from the U.S. National Integrated Land System. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), an agency in the Department of Interior, is responsible for cadastral survey, land and mineral use authorization, and resource management on public lands in the United States. The National Integrated Land System (NILS) is a joint development project between the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) conducted in partnership with states, counties, and private industry to provide a comprehensive solution to integrate survey data with parcel-based land records in an enterprise GIS environment. All data in GeoCommunicator is processed and maintained in NILS. As part of the BLM's E-Government efforts and with the development of NILS, spatially displaying parcel data from many of the BLM's computer applications has become a reality.

The BLM is committed to making our services and information available to our citizens at any time and from any place.

Land Survey Information System - PLSS Land Grid

The Land Survey Information System is the **official** federal distribution site for the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) data and other survey-based data. The PLSS traces its roots back to 1785, when the Continental Congress enacted the Land Ordinance to provide for surveying and describing land by reference to principal meridians and base lines. The PLSS data were created by converting the BLM's Geographic Coordinate Data Base (GCDB) and the USFS's Automated Lands Project (ALP) data into the NILS geodatabase. The reformatted data was then used to create standard legal land descriptions known as the Public Land Survey System. The Land Survey Information System graphically displays the PLSS section lines, section corners, and Township/Range boundaries as a multipurpose cadastre which forms the foundation of many land information systems. The multipurpose cadastre provides a framework for the integration and display of land and parcel information from NILS and the BLM's LR2000 System.

The Land Survey Information System provides:

- An Internet-based means to search, view, and download the PLSS and other survey-based data as GIS shapefiles or ASCII Files in NAD83. Users can select a state or county and then download the survey data in one or more shapefiles containing the township data.
- PLSS data from the USFS and other agencies are also available.
- A map service that allows users to view or "stream" live data directly to their desktop with the use of GIS software or into their Web browser. Data from the map service are easily integrated with other data from the Internet or local datasets.



Application and Download: www.geocommunicator.gov
Map Server: www.geocommunicator.gov
Map Service Name: BLM_LGIS_wms

***Display of the
Public Land Survey System (PLSS)
over shaded relief***



National Integrated Land System (NILS)

www.blm.gov/nils



Federal Land Stewardship

Federal Land Stewardship is a display of land boundaries delineating the surface management agency for federal lands in the United States. Data is provided in NAD83 by the BLM, National Park Service, and the USFS at a scale of 1:100,000 or better. Other Federal lands are shown as reported by the U.S. Geological Survey's National Atlas at a scale of 1:2,000,000.

The Federal Land Stewardship application provides:

- An Internet-based, easy-to-use viewer to spatially or textually search, locate, and view the federal surface management agency for a parcel of land.
- Contact information for the federal surface management agency.
- A 'map service' for the federal ownership layer allowing users to view or "stream" live data directly to their desktop with the use of GIS tools or into a GIS web map viewer.

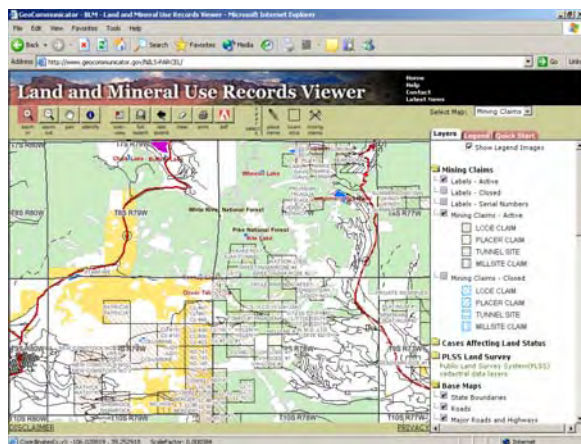
Application: www.geocommunicator.gov
Map Server: www.geocommunicator.gov
Map Service Name: BLM_SURFACE_MGT_AGY



Display of Federal Surface Management Agencies

Land and Mineral Use Records

The spatial display of a portion of the land and mineral use records from the BLM's LR2000 System (<http://www.blm.gov/lr2000>) is available as the BLM continues to integrate the text-based LR2000 System with the spatially-based NILS. BLM's LR2000 system contains information on unpatented mining claims, leases, permits, contracts, grants, agreements, mineral patents, and other use authorizations that were issued by the BLM. Currently, a percent of the oil & gas, geothermal, solid minerals, coal, conveyances, and mining claims cases as well as allotment and pastures are available on the Land and Minerals Use Records Viewer.



Display of Mining Claims

The Land and Mineral Use Records application provides:

- An Internet-based, easy-to-use viewer to spatially or textually locate and display the land and mineral use authorization parcel information.
- A subset of record information from the BLM LR2000 system displayed with BLM case serial number, authorization type, dates, and more.
- A choice of base maps, including orthophotography, shaded relief and topo maps that can be toggled on/off for reference and map creation.

Not all land and mineral use records data are currently available. More data will become available as more types of use authorizations are converted to the NILS format. Check the GeoCommunicator Website for current listings.

Application: www.geocommunicator.gov
Map Server: www.geocommunicator.gov
Map Service Name: BLM_PARCELS

For more information contact:

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web.geocommunicator.gov

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NILS has two publication websites, an internal website at web.geocommunicator.gov, and a public website at www.geocommunicator.gov. Both GeoCommunicator sites provide interactive mapping and map services for the following:

- **Federal Land Stewardship** - containing federal surface management agency (SMA) boundaries and federal contact information.
- **Land & Mineral Use Records** - containing mining claims, oil & gas leases, oil & gas agreements, coal leases, LMUs, KLA's, solid mineral leases, and cases that affect land status (grants, land patents, etc). Additionally, O&G stipulations for NM, CO, and MT and range allotments and pastures are also available. More case data will become available over time.
- **Land Survey Information System (LSIS)** - for searching, viewing, and downloading the Public Land Survey System from BLM and other survey-based data from the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and others as GIS shapefiles or ASCII files in NAD83. Users can select a state or county and then download the survey data in one or more shapefiles containing the township data. The goal of NILS and GeoCommunicator is to provide a National Cadastre for the public and governments as a one-stop shop for the PLSS and other survey-based land descriptions. This data layer is the foundation of most land management systems providing a way to accurately link parcels to the land and improving the accuracy of maps.
- **NIFC GeoCoder** - provides a tool for the conversion of township data into latitude and longitude and vice versa.
- **Map Services** - providing map services for SMA and PLSS data that can be streamed live to the users desktop and integrated with their local GIS datasets. NILS GeoCommunicator provides seamless data to The National Map and the Geospatial One-Stop Portal, Geodata.gov.

Web.geocommunicator.gov additionally contains the following two systems:

- **Site Mapper** - providing an interactive mapping application used to graphically display abandoned mines and hazardous material sites and facilities including recreation, buildings, and campgrounds.
- **NILS Review** - provides a visual tool for verifying parcels that fail the "create/maintain" process in NILS.



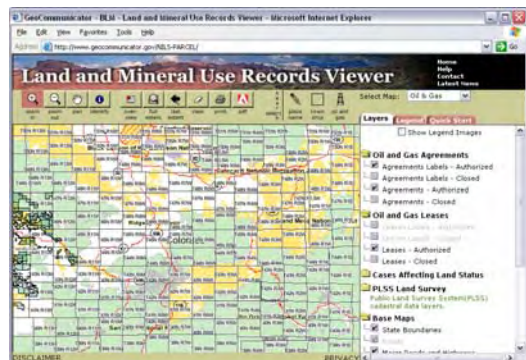
National Integrated Land System (NILS)

www.blm.gov/nils



NILS GeoCommunicator provides interactive mapping allowing users to display parcels with a variety of base maps from the USGS including topographic maps, shaded relief, orthophotos, as well as roads, rivers, urban areas, PLSS, and other reference themes. Users can create maps and print them in HTML or PDF formats.

Below is a description of how to use the search and identify tools to find and display O&G parcels and how to get a serial register report from LR2000 directly from GeoCommunicator.



Search Using Map

Search by Record Data

Status	Select	Report#	Area Name	Serial #	Type	Disposition	Leasehold	Eff. Date	Exp. Date
Active	<input type="checkbox"/>	141000	141000	141000	Oil & Gas Lease	Oil & Gas Lease	Oil & Gas Lease	01/01/2000	01/01/2010
Active	<input type="checkbox"/>	141000	141000	141000	Oil & Gas Lease	Oil & Gas Lease	Oil & Gas Lease	01/01/2000	01/01/2010
Active	<input type="checkbox"/>	141000	141000	141000	Oil & Gas Lease	Oil & Gas Lease	Oil & Gas Lease	01/01/2000	01/01/2010

Identify Window

SEARCH Tools

Search using an Interactive Map



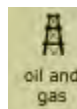
Use **"Zoom In"** then click (hold) and drag to create a box on the map. Zoom in closer to display the O&G leases and agreements. **-OR-**

Search using Place Name



Click on **"Place Name"** from the menu bar, and enter the name of a place, such as a city, state, county, etc. A list of place names is returned. Click on the appropriate name in the list to zoom to your area of interest. Zoom in closer to display the O&G leases and agreements. **-OR-**

Search using "Oil and Gas" Search



Click on **"Oil and Gas"** from the menu bar to bring up the Oil and Gas Search window. Search for O&G agreements or leases using name, serial number, etc. As an example, enter "Jack" in Agreement Name and click "Search".

SEARCH RESULTS

All of the agreements that meet your search criteria will be displayed in the search results. The viewer provides the ability to display detailed information about a selected parcel on the map.



The **"Identify"** button is used to display record information about a parcel on the map. In the Identifier Window Click on the tabs for record data including Surface Management Agency, PLSS (T/R/S) and Cases That Affect Land Status (CTALS).

Click on **"Zoom"** to go to the record you want to display on the map. To highlight the parcel on the map, check the **"Select"** box next to the record. Click on **"LR2000"** for a serial register page from the BLM's LR2000 System.

For more information visit <http://web.geocommunicator.gov> , <http://www.geocommunicator.gov> <http://www.blm.gov/nils>

or contact:

Leslie Cone, Bureau of Land Management, (303) 236-0815, lccone@blm.gov

Jim McGinnis, U.S. Forest Service, (541) 552-1591, jmcginnis@fs.fed.us

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